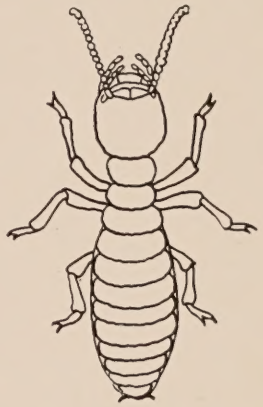
A.I.A. File No. 19-A-34

TERMITES
and
Termite Control



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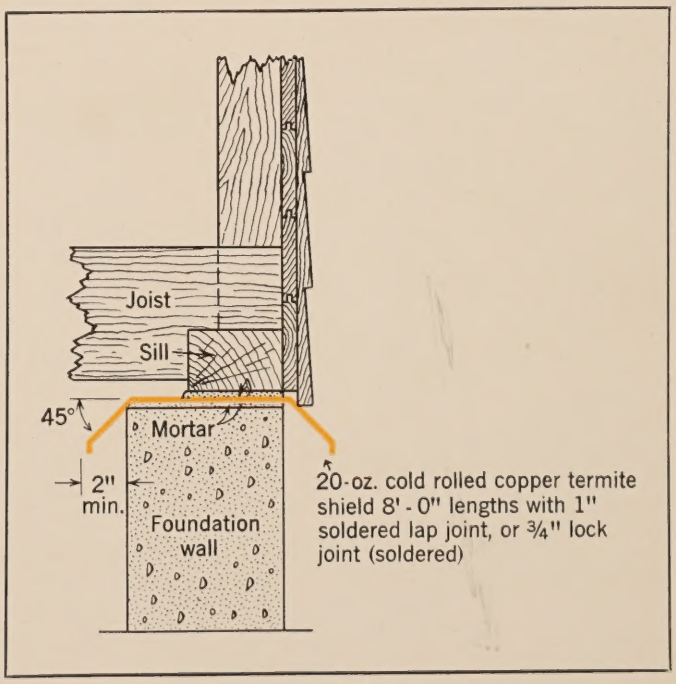
Termites and Termite Control

THE general information presented on the following pages has been condensed from available writings which are regarded as authoritative. It is not by any means complete, as we have purposely omitted lengthy discussions of the physical characteristics of these destructive insects, means of identifying them or their presence, habits of propagation, etc.:

Considerable study of termites by many authorities has resulted in general agreement that the most effective safeguard against termite damage in new construction is the application of non-corrosive metal sheets over the foundation walls as shown in the drawing below.

Sheet copper weighing 16 to 20 oz. per sq. ft. (the heavier weight being less liable to mechanical injury) has been used for some time in this manner. This material is relatively inexpensive, easily applied, highly effective and permanent.

The American Brass Company does not make the specially formed copper shields which are illustrated and discussed in this folder. However, any reliable sheet metal worker can fabricate them from Anaconda Copper in the desired weight, and in the correct sizes which may be needed for any particular building.


Joist
Sill
45°
Mortar
2" min.
Foundation wall
20-oz. cold rolled copper termite shield 8' - 0" lengths with 1" soldered lap joint, or ¾" lock joint (soldered)

For complete effectiveness, foundation walls should be raised above the ground level at all points. Continuous sheets of copper should be carried over both sides of wall and bent down as shown.

The above photo shows typical termite damage. Termites work within the wood, without disturbing the outer surfaces. Thus their presence often goes undetected until the structure collapses. This photo and the two on page 4 furnished by H. A. MUTRIE, *Manchester, Conn., termite control specialist.*

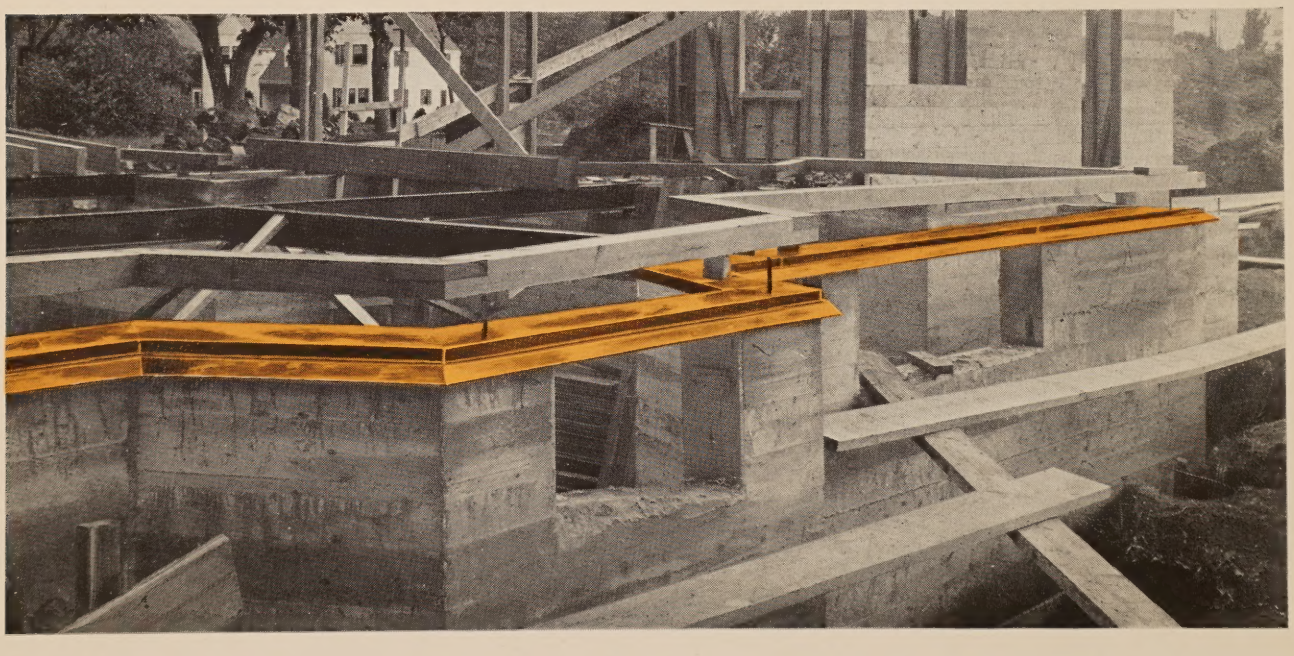
In recent years more and more attention has been focussed upon termites, and the damage they do to wood structural members. Volumes have been written about these destructive insects, their habits, methods of extermination and ways of preventing termite damage. Though not all authorities are in agreement on all points, they do seem in accord on these fundamentals:

(1) Termite damage in the United States amounts to about $50,000,000 a year. The worst affected areas are in the South and along the Pacific Coast.

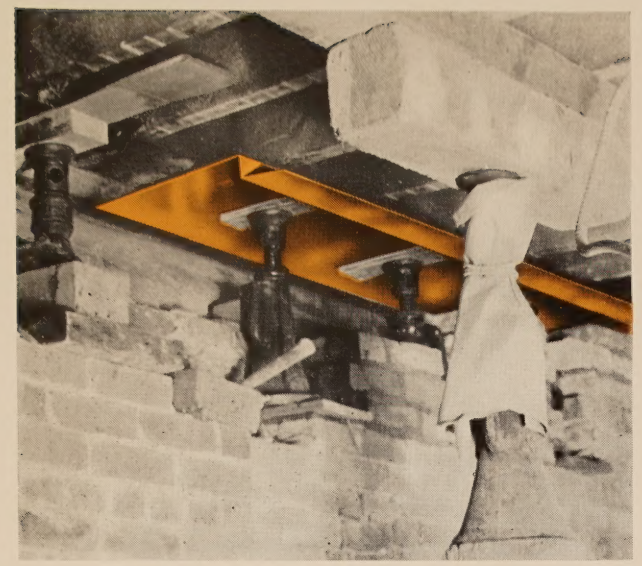
(2) Over fifty different species of termites are found in this country. They may in general be classified as Subterranean Termites, Dry-Wood Termites and Damp-Wood Termites. They are not newcomers, but have existed here for untold centuries.

(3) Damage by termites which belong in the damp-wood class is of comparatively minor consequence in the United States.

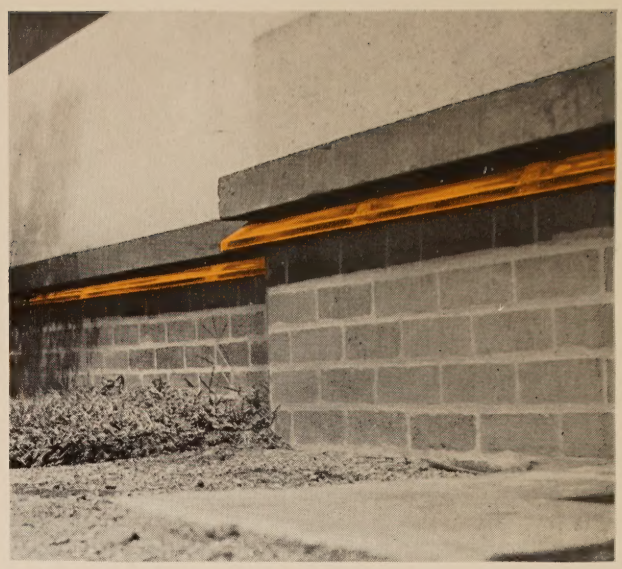
(4) Damage by dry-wood termites is confined largely to the Pacific Coast. Their elimination can only be accomplished through the application of certain poisonous substances in the affected areas.



Termite-proofing a house under construction with Anaconda Copper. The shape of the copper shield is important. See diagram on page 1.



It is possible to insert copper shields after a building has been completed.



Completed job, after copper shield has been installed and masonry restored.

SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES

(5) Until recently, species in the Subterranean classification did most of their damage in the South. In the last few years, however, an increasing amount of termite damage has caused some alarm in the West Central, Central, Eastern, North Atlantic and New England States.

(6) The subterranean termite cannot live for long without moisture. It enters wood through unseen passages from the ground. Shunning daylight, termites of necessity often build fine shelter tubes over masonry through which they reach the wood and maintain contact with the moist earth.

(7) Barring the presence of moisture in the wood of a building due to leaking pipes, tanks or other cause, termites within the wood must return to the earth for moisture.

(8) If a building is infested by termites, that fact can be ascertained by qualified observers. There are now a good many firms specializing in termite extermination. Cutting off contact with the ground is the most effective method of eliminating subterranean termites.

(9) It is easy and relatively inexpensive to protect new buildings against termite damage by the application of sheet copper. See illustration on page 3.

(10) Experience has shown that it is impossible for termites to pass such protecting shields. If the wood of the building is kept at least 6 inches* from the ground, and if the soil outside of the foundation walls is not allowed to bank up so as to decrease this distance, these simple copper shields (provided the joints are completely sealed with solder) around all piers, pipes and foundation walls should protect a building permanently from invasion by earth dwelling and damp-wood termites.

*All authorities do not agree on this 6-inch distance. Some feel that 18 inches is desirable. Six inches, with copper shields as shown, is regarded as satisfactory.

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